

November 28, 2006

Michigan House Government Operations Committee

Honorable Members:

I am writing to ask your support for HB 5470, the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. This proposed bill will allow seriously ill Michigan citizens access to the medicinal herb, marijuana, when recommended by a doctor.

Marijuana is a green, seed bearing plant, created by God and pronounced as good on the very first page of the Bible. The only limit He put on it was that we receive it with thanksgiving and use it in moderation. Marijuana has been used for literally thousands of years as a natural, healing herb. And in all that time, not a single death due to overdose or allergic reaction has been noted. Not one.


Marijuana is arguably the most researched drug known to mankind. Over the past 3 decades tens of millions of dollars have been spent examining both its benefits and liabilities. And study after study has concluded the same thing—the medicinal benefits far, far exceed any harms. The research is clear and indisputable—marijuana is effective in the treatment of symptoms associated with AIDS, cancer, M.S. and Alzheimer's disease, which currently afflicts my own step-mother.

Using this natural herb in its unrefined form for its health benefits is no different than eating citrus fruit when you feel a cold coming on or eating a healthy diet to prevent heart disease. It is not the proper role of government to dictate what natural, medicinal plants informed adults may or may not use in their own home. Trying to do so throws the door wide open to the Liberal Nanny State.

Our opponents will claim HB5470, "sends the wrong message to children." As a parent and certified Elementary & Middle School Counselor I care deeply about keeping children from falling into the trap of substance abuse. HB 5470 has nothing to do with children. There are many approved drugs currently used in legitimate medical practice that also have potential for abuse: amphetamines, cocaine, morphine and opiates. No one seriously suggests that providing these drugs to a cancer patient for symptom relief somehow, "sends the wrong message." And just what is the "right" message, anyway? Those whiney cancer patients need to just shut up and suffer in silence?

Please support HB 5470

Sincerely,


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